IN THE CLAIMS

The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:

1. (*Previously Presented*) A band saw for making straight cuts, comprising:

a continuous saw body having an inner side and an outer side, a first pre-mounting straight section that is straight along a width direction, and a second pre-mounting straight section that is straight along the width direction and extending continuous from the first pre-mounting straight section, said saw body being adapted to be suspended between a pair of spaced pulleys, with said inner side facing the pulleys; and

multiple saw teeth provided entirely on one edge portion of said saw body and extending from the first pre-mounting straight section,

wherein said saw body is subject to tensioning at a tooth base side tension zone located in the second pre-mounting straight section,

wherein the first pre-mounting straight section is angled relative to the second pre-mounting straight section at a location immediately next to a tooth base line within a tooth base line area so that the entire saw teeth are angled toward said inner side when the saw body is not subject to tensioning,

wherein the tooth base line is located at an innermost part of gullets of the teeth,

wherein the tooth base line area is located between the tooth base line and the tooth base tension zone, and

wherein the band saw substantially straightens from the one edge portion to an opposite edge portion thereof when the band saw is operationally suspended and tensioned between said spaced pulleys so that the angle formed between the first and second pre-mounting sections substantially disappears.

2. (*Original*) A band saw according to claim 1, wherein a projection is formed on a tip of each saw tooth, and a width of each projection is 1.5-3.0 times as large as a thickness of said band saw.

3. (*Original*) A band saw according to claim 1, wherein a tip of each saw tooth protrudes by 0.02 mm in a direction of a thickness of said band saw from a surface of said saw body.

4-14. (*Canceled*)

15. (*New*) A band saw processing apparatus for obtaining a band saw for making straight cuts, including a continuous saw body having an inner side and an outer side, a first pre-mounting straight section that is straight along a width direction, and a second pre-mounting straight section that is straight along the width direction and extending continuous from the first pre-mounting straight section, said saw body being adapted to be suspended between a pair of spaced pulleys, with said inner side facing the pulleys; and multiple saw teeth provided entirely on one edge portion of said saw body and extending from the first pre-mounting straight section, wherein said saw body is subject to tensioning at a tooth base side tension zone located in the second pre-mounting straight section, wherein the first pre-mounting straight section is angled relative to the second pre-mounting straight section at a location immediately next to a tooth base line within a tooth base line area so that the entire saw teeth are angled toward said inner side when the saw body is not subject to tensioning, wherein the tooth base line is located at an innermost part of gullets of the teeth, wherein the tooth base line area is located between the tooth base line and the tooth base tension zone, and wherein the band saw substantially straightens from the one edge portion to an opposite edge portion thereof when the band saw is operationally suspended and tensioned between said spaced pulleys so that the angle formed between the first and second pre-mounting sections substantially disappears, said apparatus comprising:

a first and a second roller that grasp said band saw from said inner and outer sides, said first roller exerting pressure on said band saw from one of said inner and outer sides, and said second roller exerting pressure on the band saw from the other of said inner and outer sides,

wherein edges of said first and second rollers are positioned to be offset from each other in an axial direction thereof, and an area around said tooth base line of said saw body of said band saw is grasped between said edges of said first and second rollers so that said first pre-mounting straight section is angled toward said inner side.

16. (*New*) A band saw processing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein outer circumferential surfaces of said first and second rollers have opposite inclined configurations in the axial direction thereof, and wherein said saw tooth base line area of said base saw body is grasped by and rolled between large-diameter edges of said first roller and said second rollers to angle said first pre-mounting straight section toward the inner side of said saw body.

17. (*New*) A band saw processing apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising a support roller supported coaxially with the second roller, and positioned to face the first roller via said band saw for supporting the band saw.

18. (*New*) A method of manufacturing a band saw for making straight cuts, including a continuous saw body having an inner side and an outer side, a first pre-mounting straight section that is straight along a width direction, and a second pre-mounting straight section that is straight along the width direction and continuous from the first pre-mounting straight section, said saw body being adapted to be suspended between a pair of spaced pulleys, with said inner side facing the pulleys; and multiple saw teeth provided entirely on one edge portion of said saw body and extending from the first pre-mounting straight section, wherein said saw body is subject to tensioning at a tension zone located in the second pre-mounting straight section, wherein the first pre-mounting straight section is angled relative to the second pre-mounting straight section at a location immediately next to a tooth base line within a tooth base line area so that the entire saw teeth are angled toward said inner side when the saw body is not subject to tensioning, wherein the tooth base line is located at an innermost part of gullets of the teeth, wherein the tooth base line area is located between the tooth base line and the tooth base tension zone, and wherein the band saw substantially straightens from the one edge portion to an opposite edge portion thereof when the band saw is operationally suspended and tensioned between said spaced pulleys so that the angle formed between the first and second pre-mounting sections substantially disappears, said method comprising the steps of:

forming multiple saw teeth on a band saw plate having a long flat plate configuration;

welding two opposing ends of said band saw plate together to form an endless band saw; and

bending said first pre-mounting straight section toward said inner side of said saw body.

19. (*New*) A band saw teeth setting method for a band saw for making straight cuts, having a continuous saw body having an inner side and an outer side, a first pre-mounting straight section that is straight along a width direction and a second pre-mounting straight section that is straight along the width direction and continuous from the first pre-mounting straight section, said saw body being adapted to be suspended between a pair of spaced pulleys, with said inner side facing the pulleys; and multiple saw teeth provided entirely on one edge portion of said saw body and extending from the first pre-mounting straight section, wherein said saw body is

subject to tensioning at a tension zone located in the second pre-mounting straight section, wherein the first pre-mounting straight section is angled relative to the second pre-mounting straight section at a location immediately next to a tooth base line within a tooth base line area so that the entire saw teeth are angled toward said inner side when the saw body is not subject to tensioning, wherein the tooth base line is located at an innermost part of gullets of the teeth, wherein the tooth base line area is located between the tooth base line and the tooth base tension zone, and wherein the band saw substantially straightens from the one edge portion to an opposite edge portion thereof when the band saw is operationally suspended and tensioned between said spaced pulleys so that the angle formed between the first and second pre-mounting sections substantially disappears, said method comprising the steps of:

bending said first pre-mounting straight section toward said inner side of the saw body; and

setting teeth for said band saw.

20. (*New*) A method according to claim 19, wherein said first pre-mounting straight section is bent toward said inner side when setting the saw teeth to said band saw.

21. (*New*) A band saw according to claim 1, wherein said first pre-mounting straight section is angled to strengthen and enhance durability of the saw teeth.

22. (*New*) A band saw processing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said first pre-mounting straight section is angled to strengthen and enhance durability of the saw teeth.

23. (*New*) A method according to claim 18, wherein said first pre-mounting straight section is angled to strengthen and enhance durability of the saw teeth.

24. (*New*) A method according to claim 19, wherein said first pre-mounting straight section is angled to strengthen and enhance durability of the saw teeth.